

Rec'd May 15<sup>th</sup>

Bolivar, Polk Co., Mo.  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1854.

Dr. Leo. Engleman:

Sir;

I take the liberty to solicit your advice and opinion on a subject which has been for years uppermost in my mind; but which for want of means I have been unable to accomplish.

The object I have in view, and to which I wish to call your attention, is the establishing of a public museum in St. Louis. By museum I do not mean a mere charlatan, humbug show with the sole view of making money; my aim would be to center in St. Louis specimens of the mineralogy, geology, palaeontology, Zoology, and botany of the Mississippi Valley — together with natural curiosities of all parts of the world.

Though a young man I have devoted years to the study of Natural History; and am here now to examine the geology and palaeontology of this part of the State, and more particularly to explore the dis-



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- trict in which the huge fossil remains of the Mastodon are found. I have examined the place where Dr. Koch exhumed his great Missourium; and I have found deposits of fossil remains equally as extensive; but for want of means cannot at present engage in disintering them.

I am aware that the establishing of a public museum is a gigantic undertaking, and must necessarily be attended with vast labor and expense; but I have been led to believe that the Scientific men of St. Louis are willing to incur the expense for such a purpose. It is on this point I would ask your opinion.

I would feel under obligations to you if you would give the matter due consideration, and transmit to me, as soon as convenient, your candid opinion of it.

I address you on this subject because I regard you as at the head of Scientific men of the West, and as a patron of all Scientific enterprises.

Very Respectfully, &c.

J. F. Snyder M.D.

Dr. Rev. Engleman,

corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Elm St. Louis Mo.

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P.S. As I have not the pleasure of a personal  
acquaintance with you, I would refer you  
to Dr. J. N. McDowell, R. F. Barnett, or Adolphus  
Engleman Esq., St. Louis; or to Theodore Engleman,  
or Judge Kaerner of Belleville, Ills.

J. F. S.

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